

10. (Twice Amended) The web of Claim 34, wherein the poly(vinyl alcohol) has a degree of hydrolysis greater than 98%.

11. (Twice Amended) The web of Claim 34, wherein the poly(vinyl alcohol) fibers have an average denier of from about 1 to about 3 denier.

12. (Twice Amended) The web of Claim 34, wherein the poly(vinyl alcohol) fibers have an average length of from about 30 mm to about 60 mm.

13. (Twice Amended) The web of Claim 34, wherein the poly(vinyl alcohol) fibers are soluble in water above 65°C, and insoluble in water below 65°C.

14. (Twice Amended) The web of Claim 34, wherein the poly(vinyl alcohol) fibers are soluble in water above 90°C, and insoluble in water below 90°C.

15. (Twice Amended) The web of Claim 34, wherein the web has a thickness of from about 0.3 mm to about 0.6 mm.

16. (Twice Amended) The web of Claim 34, wherein the web has a basis weight of from about 40 g/m² to about 100 g/m².

17. (Twice Amended) The web of Claim 38, wherein the web further comprises other pressure liquid entangled fibers selected from the group consisting of polyester, polypropylene, polyethylene, rayon, cellulose, nylon, and ethylene/(meth)acrylic acid copolymer fibers.

18. (Twice Amended) An article comprising the web of Claim 34 and a substantially impermeable layer adhered to the web.

19. (Twice Amended) The article of Claim 18, wherein the substantially impermeable layer is polyethylene, polypropylene, polyester, or ethylene/(meth)acrylic acid copolyester.

20. (Twice Amended) A coated web comprising the web of Claim 34 and a coating on the web, wherein the coating comprises a liquid selected from the group consisting of isopropyl alcohol, water, methyl ethyl ketone, methyl propyl ketone, and acetone.

21. (Twice Amended) A coated web comprising the web of Claim 34 and a coating on one or both sides of the web, wherein the coating comprises an aqueous finishing formulation to impart water repellency to the web.

23. (Twice Amended) The coated web of Claim 21, wherein the aqueous finishing formulation comprises:

- (i) from about 0.01 to about 3 wt. % fluorocarbon; and
- (ii) from about 0.01 to about 20 wt. % wax, based on a total weight of the aqueous finishing formulation.

26. (Twice Amended) The web of Claim 34, wherein the web has (i) an air permeability of greater than 150 CFM/sq. ft. when measured by ASTM D737-96; (ii) a flammability rating of IBE or DNI when measured according to ASTM D1230-94; (iii) a water impact penetration less than 1.0 grams when measured by AATCC 42-94; or (iv) a combination of any of (i), (ii), and (iii).

29. (Twice Amended) An article comprising the web of Claim 34, wherein the article is selected from the group consisting of gowns, drapes, and protective apparel.

30. (Twice Amended) An article comprising the web of Claim 34, wherein the article comprises an absorbent pad.

31. (Twice Amended) An article comprising the web of Claim 34, wherein the article comprises an article selected from the group consisting of gauze, swabs, towels, and wipes.

32. (Twice Amended) The article of Claim 31, wherein the article comprises a wipe that is at least 25% saturated with a solvent.

33. (Twice Amended) An article comprising the web of Claim 34, wherein the article comprises an air filter.

34. (Thrice Amended) A spun-laced web consisting essentially of a plurality of pressure liquid entangled poly(vinyl alcohol) fibers, wherein:

- a. the web is nonwoven;
- b. binding adhesives are substantially absent from the web;
- c. heat fusion is substantially absent from the web;
- d. needlepunching is substantially absent from the web; and
- e. stitchbonding is substantially absent from the web;
- f. the poly(vinyl alcohol) has a degree of polymerization of from about 300 to about 5000; and
- g. the web has a bursting strength value as measured according to ASTM D3786-87 of greater than 50 psi when the web has a thickness of 0.4 mm and a basis weight of 70 gsm.

38. (Amended) A spun-laced web comprising a plurality of pressure liquid entangled poly(vinyl alcohol) fibers, wherein:

- a. the web is non-woven;
- b. binding adhesives are substantially absent from the web;
- c. heat fusion is substantially absent from the web;
- d. needlepunching is substantially absent from the web;
- e. stitchbonding is substantially absent from the web;
- f. the poly(vinyl alcohol) has a degree of polymerization of from about 300 to about 5000;
- g. the web has a thickness of from about 0.05 mm to about 2.0 mm and a basis weight of from about 20 gsm to about 400 gsm; and
- h. the web has a bursting strength value as measured according to ASTM D3786-87 of greater than 50 psi.

Please add the following new claims:

40. (New) An article comprising the web of Claim 38 and a substantially impermeable layer adhered to the web.

41. (New) The article of Claim 40, wherein the substantially impermeable layer is polyethylene, polypropylene, polyester, or ethylene/(meth)acrylic acid copolyester.

42. (New) A coated web comprising the web of Claim 38 and a coating on the web, wherein the coating comprises a liquid selected from the group consisting of isopropyl alcohol, water, methyl ethyl ketone, methyl propyl ketone, and acetone.

43. (New) A coated web comprising the web of Claim 38 and a coating on one or both sides of the web, wherein the coating comprises an aqueous finishing formulation to impart water repellency to the web.

44. (New) The coated web of Claim 43, wherein the aqueous finishing formulation comprises:

- (i) from about 0.01 to about 3 wt. % fluorocarbon; and
- (ii) from about 0.01 to about 20 wt. % wax, based on a total weight of the aqueous finishing formulation.

45. (New) The web of Claim 38, wherein:

- i. the web has an air permeability of greater than 150 CFM/sq. ft. when measured by ASTM D737-96.

46. (New) A spun-laced nonwoven fabric comprising a plurality of pressure liquid entangled poly(vinyl alcohol) fibers, wherein:

- a. binding adhesives are substantially absent from the fabric;
- b. heat fusion is substantially absent from the fabric;
- c. needlepunching is substantially absent from the fabric; and
- d. stitchbonding is substantially absent from the fabric;
- e. the poly(vinyl alcohol) has a degree of polymerization of from about 300 to about 5000; and
- f. the fabric has a bursting strength value as measured according to ASTM D3786-87 of greater than 50 psi.

47. (New) The spun-laced nonwoven fabric of Claim 46, wherein the fabric consists essentially of hydroentangled poly(vinyl alcohol) fibers.